

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00030 071935Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5387

S E C R E T MAPUTO 0030

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, RH, UK

SUBJ: MESSAGE TO MACHEL

REF: (A) STATE 3510, (B) MAPUTO 021, (C) MAPUTO 027

1. SUMMARY: I DELIVERED YOUR LETTER THIS AFTERNOON TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO, WHO WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN PARAGRAPH ON NAMIBIA. HE SAID THAT HE AND MACHEL WOULD LOOK AT LETTER CAREFULLY BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FOR LUSAKA. CHISSANO IS BAFFLED WHY U.S. AND UK ARE PLACING SO MUCH IMPORTANCE ON OBTAINING COMMITMENT THAT WAR WILL CEASE ONCE AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING CHISSANO, THIS IS FOREGONE CONCLUSION IF AGREEMENT IS SATISFACTORY TO ZIMBABWEANS. CHISSANO ALSO FINDS RICHARD'S PROPOSALS FOR INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO BE VAGUE. HE LEFT ME WITH IMPRESSION THAT MACHEL MAY NOT BE AS SATISFIED WITH BRITISH PROPOSAL AS RICHARD CONCLUDED ON BASIS HIS MEETING WITH MACHEL.

END SUMMARY

2. FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO AGREED TO FIT ME IN HIS BUSY SCHEDULE THIS AFTERNOON WHEN I EXPLAINED THAT I HAD MESSAGE FROM YOU FOR PRESIDENT MACHEL. AFTER READING LETTER TWICE,

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HE BEGAN BY SAYING THAT HE FOUND PARAGRAPH ON NAMIBIA "ESPECIALLY INTERESTING." HE SAID THAT HE AND PRESIDENT WOULD WANT TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT LETTER AND THIS PARA IN PARTICULAR BEFORE LEAVING FOR LUSAKA. HE PROMISED TO SEE TO IT THAT LETTER WAS DELIVERED TO MACHEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. CHISSANO SAID HE WAS BAFFLED BY IMPORTANCE WHICH LETTER

PLACES ON OBTAINING COMMITMENT FROM AFRICANS THAT WAR WOULD COME TO END WHEN AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WERE ESTABLISHED. HE NOTED THAT RICHARD HAS STRESSED THIS TOO. CESSATION OF FIGHTING, HE SAID, WAS FOREGONE CONCLUSION IF AN AGREEMENT SATISFACTORY TO ZIMBABWEANS WAS REACHED AT GENEVA. "I AM SURE," HE SAID, "THAT THE ZIMBABWEANS WILL END THE FIGHTING AS SOON AS AGREEMENT IS REACHED -- EVEN BEFORE THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT IS INSTALLED IN OFFICE." CHISSANO OBSERVED THAT FRELIMO HAD DONE THIS AFTER INDEPENDENCE HAD BEEN AGREED UPON FOR MOZAMBIQUE.

4. IN REPLY, I SAID THAT YOUR LETTER MADE CLEAR THAT WE FELT SUCH A COMMITMENT WOULD HELP TO ENSURE SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT TO BRING SMITH BACK TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE, ADDING THAT SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT MAY BE ESSENTIAL IF AGREEMENT IS TO BE REACHED IN GENEVA. CHISSANO REMARKED THAT RICHARD HAD MADE THIS POINT TOO IN TALK YESTERDAY. NONETHELESS, HE FOUND IT STRANGE THAT U.S. AND UK ARE PUTTING SO MUCH IMPORTANCE ON THIS COMMITMENT SINCE THERE ABSOLUTELY NO REASON IN HIS OPINION TO CONTINUE FIGHTING AFTER AGREEMENT ON INTERIM GOVERNMENT IS REACHED. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO, I HAD IMPRESSION CHISSANO MAY THINK THERE SOME ULTERIOR MOTIVE BEHIND U.S./UK INTEREST IN SEEKING OBTAIN SUCH A COMMITMENT NOW.

5. CHISSANO REGRETTED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE MORE TIME TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION. (THERE WAS STACK OF PEOPLE WAITING OUTSIDE HIS OFFICE TO SEE HIM.) AS I LEFT I ASKED HIM ABOUT MEETING WITH RICHARD. HE REMARKED THAT HE AND MACHEL HAD FOUND RICHARD'S PROPOSALS RATHER VAGUE. HE WISHED PROPOSALS HAD BEEN MORE SPECIFIC. "FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE NOT AT ALL SURE AFTER
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OUR TALK WITH RICHARD YESTERDAY HOW THE ARMY AND POLICE WILL BE CONTROLLED." I SAID I WAS NOT IN POSITION TO COMMENT, BUT NOTED THAT PURPOSE OF RICHARD'S VISIT WAS TO EXPLORE IF THE PROPOSALS HE HAD WITH HIM ON FORMATION OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT OFFERED REASONABLE CHANCE OF BEING ACCEPTED BY ALL PARTIES INVOLVED, AND ADDED THAT EXPLORATORY TALKS IMPLY FLEXIBILITY IN APPROACH.

6. COMMENT; MY BRIEF DISCUSSION (FIFTEEN MINUTES) WITH CHISSANO CAN BY NO MEANS BE CONSIDERED A REVIEW OF THE RICHARD TALK OR OF CHISSANO'S REACTION TO LATEST PROPOSALS. THE FEW VOLUNTARY OBSERVATIONS MADE BY CHISSANO ABOUT THE PROPOSALS, HOWEVER, LEFT ME WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE MOZAMBICANS MAY NOT BE AS SATISFIED WITH THE PROPOSALS AS WAS SUGGESTED IN REFTELS B AND C REPORTS
OF RICHARD'S TALK WITH MACHEL.

7. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS EDMONDSON.
DE PREE

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NNN

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Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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